

ATC Scientific COVID-19 Response

General:

ATC Scientific provides essential services to the agriculture, feed, pet food, and food industries and recognizes the importance of continuing operations during difficult times. These services include analytical testing to support nutritional and food safety metrics that are critical to the ongoing operations of local, national, and worldwide food supply. Below is a summary of what is being done by the management of ATC Scientific to ensure continued operations during the current outbreak of COVID-19.

Pandemic Response Team:

ATC Scientific has activated our Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan. This plan outlines the steps we will take to protect our staff and the community while maintaining essential operations during a pandemic outbreak. As part of this plan, we have defined a Pandemic Response Team consisting of the Laboratory Director, Laboratory Manager, and Microbiologist. The purpose of this team is to oversee the adherence to the Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan, monitor recommendations from state and federal government and health officials, and ensure continuity of essential operations.

Actions:

The ATC Scientific Pandemic Response Team has taken the following actions:

1. Visitor access has been restricted to delivery personnel only and no further into the facility than absolutely necessary. Receiving staff have been trained to maintain appropriate distance from delivery personnel and all received packages are handled with gloves. Areas in contact with these outside packages are disinfected immediately after use. Conspicuous signs have been posted to this effect.
2. Staff are actively screened for entry into the facility. Staff showing any symptoms or who have been exposed to those showing symptoms are not allowed to report to work. Staff have been encouraged to limit exposure to the general public and practice social distancing and recommended hygiene when exposure is necessary. Conspicuous signs have been posted to this effect.
3. Staff scheduling has been modified to distribute the workforce across the hours of operation, thereby reducing the number of staff in the facility at any given time. Where possible, staff have been asked to work from home. Staff have been trained on social distancing while in the facility.

ATC Scientific COVID-19 Response

4. Personal hygiene habits have been intensified. Staff are required to wash their hands thoroughly upon entry into the facility and frequently throughout the day. Staff have been trained to not touch their face and cover their mouth and nose if they should cough. Personal protective equipment such as lab coats, protective eyewear, gloves, and masks are already incorporated into the routine personal hygiene procedures, and the appropriate use of this PPE has been further emphasized.
5. Disinfection procedures have been intensified to include regular disinfecting of common touch points and common areas. Staff have been trained to disinfect their personal workspace at the beginning and end of their shift as well as periodically throughout the workday.
6. Critical supplies are being monitored and inventory levels have been increased. At this time, there is not a shortage of critical supplies or significant delay in delivery of such items. Inventory of masks has become an issue and alternatives are currently being explored.

Further Response:

The Pandemic Response Team is monitoring recommendations from the State of Arkansas, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the CDC. The ATC Scientific response to COVID-19 will continue to develop as these recommendations evolve and as improved options for implementation of these recommendations present themselves. The team is routinely communicating with each other and to the ATC Scientific staff about the current actions taken and the evaluation of potential future actions.

Revision:

This version of the ATC Scientific COVID-19 Response has been issued on 03/24/20. Future revisions may be made where necessary and will be posted on the ATC Scientific website (atcscientific.com) when available. Customers and/or vendors who wish to be notified of future revisions may request such by emailing their primary point of contact at ATC Scientific.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Schuldt', written in a cursive style.

Scott Schuldt
Laboratory Director